

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

AID-MR. NOOTER EA-MR. HUMMEL

S/S- MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652, N/A/

TAGS: EAID, VS

SUBJECT: SENATOR KENNEDY CALLS ON SECRETARY TO DISCUSS
CHILD WELFARE AND HUMANITARIAN AID IN VIET-NAM

1. SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, ACCOMPANIED BY DR. NEVIN
SCRIMSHAW, WELLS KLEIN AND STAFFERS DE HAAN AND TINKER,
CALLED ON THE SECRETARY AUGUST 3 TO DISCUSS CHILD WELFARE
IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO BOTH SOUTH VIET-
NAM AND NORTH VIET-NAM.

2. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES IN SOUTH
VIET-NAM, SENATOR MADE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

(A) TWO CHILD WELFARE SPECIALISTS SHOULD BE ASSIGNED
TO U.S. MISSION FOR ABOUT 18 MONTHS;

(B) ONE PERSON IN AID/W SHOULD BE ASSIGNED EXCLUSIVELY
TO TASK OF BACKSTOPPING VIET-NAM CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM; AND

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(C) AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO VIET-NAM SHOULD IMPRESS ON

GVN AT HIGH LEVEL EXTENT OF CONCERN IN U.S. OVER CHILD WELFARE IN SVN AND URGE GVN TO GIVE IT HIGHER PRIORITY.

3. SENATOR KENNEDY ALSO STRONGLY URGED THAT OUR HUMANITARIAN AID TO VIET-NAM (BOTH SVN AND EVENTUALLY NVN) BE CLEARLY DIFFERENTIATED FROM OUR AID FOR MORE GENERAL

PURPOSES AND THAT IT EVENTUALLY BECOME PART OF AN COORDINATED MULTILATERAL PROGRAM OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FROM VARIOUS NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. DR. SCRIMSHAW, WHO HEADED KENNEDY SUBCOMMITTEE'S MEDICAL STUDY MISSION TO INDOCHINA LAST MARCH, DESCRIBED CONDITIONS HE OBSERVED IN NORTH VIET-NAM STRESSING VIEWS THAT DRV HEALTH SERVICES MUCH BETTER THAN ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THAT THERE WIDESPREAD PHYSICAL DAMAGE FROM BOMBING BUT RELATIVELY FEW CASUALTIES, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED MAINLY TO EFFECTIVE CIVILIAN EVACUATION PROGRAM. HE DESCRIBED NVN REQUIREMENTS IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION FIELD AS RELATIVELY SMALL AND LIMITED MAINLY TO MODERN MEDICINES AND SOPHISTICATED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND HELP WITH PHYSICAL RECONSTRUCTION OF HOSPITALS.

5. MR. KLEIN (MEMBER OF STUDY MISSION) EMPHASIZED NEED TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF IMPROVED ATTENTION TO SOCIAL WELFARE NEEDS IN SVN BY PRESSING GVN TO GIVE SOCIAL WELFARE, ESPECIALLY ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN, HIGHER PRIORITY AND TO DISASSOCIATE IT FROM POLITICAL AND MILITARY OBJECTIVES, E.G. TO STOP MOVING POPULATION FOR POLITICAL OR MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS.

6. SECRETARY EXPRESSED THANKS FOR VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND INDICATED THEY WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

7. COMMENT: BOB NOOTER, WHO PRESENT AT MEETING, GIVING CONSIDERATION TO STAFFING RECOMMENDATIONS. AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO CONVEY SENATOR'S VIEWS DESCRIBED PARA 2 (C) ABOVE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF GVN AT SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY. ROGERS

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